

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. Canceled.

6. (Currently Amended) A device for producing an extruded plastic pipe, comprising:
an extruder having an adjustable extrusion cap and configured to extrude a melt column,
the melt column having a thickness and an outer surface defining an outside diameter, the
extrusion cap being adjustable to vary the thickness and outside diameter of the melt column;

a vacuum chamber positioned in the device adjacent the extruder, the vacuum chamber
allowing for varying the vacuum therein providing a vacuum condition, the vacuum chamber
comprising:

measuring tools configured to determine the outside diameter of the melt column;
whereby when the extruded melt column is moved from the extruder into the
vacuum chamber, the outer surface of the melt column is exposed to the vacuum condition in the
vacuum chamber, and a change in the vacuum condition changes the thickness and the outside
diameter of the melt column in a controlled manner based on the measured outside diameter of
the melt column determined by the measuring tools.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the measuring instruments
operate with sensing tools resting on the outer surface of the melt column.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the measuring instruments
determine the outside diameter of the melt column without physically touching the melt column.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the measuring instruments
determine the outside diameter using sound or light sensors.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 6, further comprising a calibrating station, the calibrating station being adjacent to the vacuum chamber and configured to calibrate the outer diameter of the ~~pipe-shaped~~ melt column to a predetermined diameter.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 10, further comprising a vacuum calibrating bath, the vacuum calibrating bath being adjacent to the calibrating station and configured to bath the calibrated melt column to cool and harden the calibrated melt column.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 6 ~~11~~, further comprising an adjustable vacuum seal, the vacuum seal configured to engage the outer surface of the melt column to maintain the vacuum condition in the vacuum ~~chamber~~ calibrating bath, and the vacuum seal adjusts automatically to the outside diameter of the pipe.

13. (New) A device for producing an extruded plastic pipe, comprising:

- an extruder having an adjustable extrusion cap and configured to extrude a melt column having an outer surface defining an outer diameter, the extrusion cap being adjustable to vary the outer diameter of the melt column;

- a vacuum chamber providing a variable vacuum condition and including measuring tools configured to determine the outer diameter of the melt column and provide a measurement signal;

- a calibrating station configured to calibrate the outer diameter of the melt column to a predetermined diameter;

- a vacuum calibrating bath configured to bath the calibrated melt column to cool and harden the calibrated melt column;

- an adjustable vacuum seal configured to engage the outer surface of the melt column and being adjustable in size to maintain the vacuum condition in the vacuum calibrating station;

- whereby a position of the extrusion cap, the vacuum condition, the predetermined diameter, and the size of the vacuum seal are each automatically controlled in response to the measurement signal.